

1 **SWITCHING INTERFACES IN EXTERNAL DISK DRIVES**

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ABSTRACT

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5 In an external disk drive system comprising a disk drive, a bridge controller
6 comprising a plurality of Bridge Controller Host (BCH) interfaces adapted to establish
7 communication between the external disk drive system and an external device via a
8 plurality of different communication mediums, a method for switching from a first BCH-
9 interface communicating with the external device via a first communication medium to a
10 second BCH-interface during the operation of the external disk drive system. The method
11 comprising sensing a connecting of a second communication medium to the external disk
12 drive system via the second BCH-interface; determining an interface priority of the
13 second communication medium over an interface priority of the first communication
14 medium; dismounting the disk drive from the first communication medium based on the
15 determining; and mounting the disk drive to the second communication medium wherein
16 the external disk drive system remains operational during the dismounting and mounting.